

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 /122 W

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R 311709Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2901

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 3218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, PFOR, FR, AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN REACTION TO MARSEILLE MURDERS

REF: PARIS 23058

1. ACCORDING TO QUAI DIRECTOR ALGERIAN AFFAIRS PAOLI, RACIAL INCIDENTS IN SOUTH OF FRANCE BEGINNING TO HAVE HARMFUL IMPACT ON FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS. PAOLI SAID THAT SITUATION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. NUMBER OF ALGERIANS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED NOW STANDS AT FIVE OR SIX. IN ADDITION, RAPE OF FRENCH GIRL BY GROUP SIX ALGERIANS EARLIER THIS WEEK HAS FURTHER INFLAMED PASSIONS AGAINST NORTH AFRICANS. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, WHO HAS BEEN IN ALGIERS FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, HAS RETURNED URGENTLY TO PARIS TO PROTEST ESCALATION OF RACIAL TENSION.

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2. PAOLI COMMENTED THAT TO DATE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE IN ITS COMMENT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT CONTINUED TO HOPE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF 25,000 ANNUAL IMMIGRATION QUOTA. PAOLI SAID THAT IF INCIDENTS CONTINUE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR GO TO MAINTAIN THIS STANCE, AND SERIOUS AGGRAVATION OF FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. PAOLI COMMENTED THAT PROBLEM WAS DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, SINCE INCIDENTS HAD NOT BEEN CAUSED BY USUAL CRIMINAL ELEMENTS, BUT RATHER BY RIGHTIST POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS WHOSE ACTIVITIES HAD NOT NORMALLY BEEN SUBJECT TO POLICE INVESTIGATION.

3. COMMENT: OUTBREAK OF RACIAL TENSION IS PARTICULARLY DISCOURAGING FOR FRENCH OFFICIALS WORKING ON ALGERIA, GIVEN RECENT SIGNS THAT GOA WAS MOVING, ALBEIT SLOWLY, TO REMOVE SOME OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES WITH FRANCE. THIS TENDENCY HAD BEEN EVIDENCED BY EARLY AUGUST RELEASE OF FIFTEEN FRENCH CITIZENS ARRESTED FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE SPECULATIONS AND AUTHORIZATION TO FRENCH CITIZENS WHO HAD DEFINITELY LEFT ALGERIA TO REPATRIATE EQUIVALENT OF 11,250 FRANCS.
STONE

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